Typed: 2/19/80 1/22/80 31 MAR 1980

The Attorney General

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129-11

Robert L. Keuch
Special Counsel to the Attorney General

National Science Foundation Review of John F. Kennedy Assassination Acoustical Evidence

As you will recall, the House Select Committee on Assassinations (HSCA) recommended in its final report that the Department of Justice review acoustical evidence (a Dallas Police Department radio communications dictabelt) as part of our review of the J.F.K. assassination investigation. The acoustical evidence was the sole basis for the Committee's determination that one shot was fired from the grassy knoll at approximately the same time as several shots were fired from the Texas School Book Depository. The Committee cited no other evidence to support a conspiracy theory.

The Central Intelligence Agency and the National Security Agency have informed us that they do not have the specialized equipment or expert personnel required to conduct those experiments which are essential to our review of this evidence. The Federal Bureau of Investigation Laboratory has agreed to evaluate the validity of the scientific procedures used by the HSCA experts but it does not intend to actually analyze the acoustical evidence. I concur with the Bureau's belief that any further experimentation must be conducted within the private sector to assure public confidence in the results.

Accordingly, I have arranged for the National Science Foundation to offer to establish a National Academy of Sciences Committee, composed of a panel of private sector scientists of national stature, to coordinate all aspects of the necessary acoustical review. I am convinced that the National Academy of Sciences offers the prestige, expertise, and independence to perform this vital task in a fashion which should satisfy the public, regardless of the conclusions reached. The National Science Foundation has proposed that it issue a technical report to the public upon the conclusion of its review.

Records
Gen. Litigation
Fogel (2)
Cubbage (1)
Keuch

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Unless advised to the contrary, I intend to send the attached letter to the National Science Foundation to authorize the initiation of National Science Foundation control of the acoustical aspects of the J.F.K. assassination investigation review. The FBI has been advised of this intended course of action and concurs.

Attachment

[redacted] [redacted]